

Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus' Last Words

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

April 14, 2022

Maundy Thursday



The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (mandatum), from which Maundy comes) to love one another. You may think of this service as a play in several acts. In the first act we confess our sins and hear the words of forgiveness. In the second act we receive Holy Communion. We remember that it was on this night that Jesus established the Lord's Supper and said, "Do this in remembrance of me." During the third and final act, the altar area will be stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.

HYMN GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US ELW 358

We will sing verses 1 through 3.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Congregation, please stand.)*

P: Friends in Christ, on this night we pause to consider our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil--all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor. In doing so we prepare ourselves for the joy that comes with Easter morning.

(Keep silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

(The congregation may be seated.)

INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

Those wishing to receive individual absolution may come up the center aisle and return down a side aisle. After the laying on of hands and the declaration of forgiveness, the sign of the cross will be made on each forehead (with olive oil, the ancient symbol for anointing) as it was in baptism, signifying forgiveness and our membership in the body of Christ.

ABSOLUTION OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

HYMN GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US ELW 358

We will sing verses 4 and 5.

CHILDREN'S TIME

A GOSPEL READING FROM JOHN 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

HYMN LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER ELW 471

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*The congregation may stand*)

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

C: And our hearts will open wide to receive.

P: And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

C: And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

P: And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

C: And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

P: And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

C: And everywhere will be the feast.

P: As you, O God, shared your love and yourself in the person of Jesus,

so he shared his love and his life by giving himself for us.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the life of Christ. Replenished by him, may we faithfully follow and serve him, awaiting with expectation the coming of his kingdom.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and all glory is yours, most holy and most gracious God. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

First Communion students and their families will commune by kneeling at the railing using flatbread that they baked a few days ago.

The congregation will remain in their pews and will partake in communion using the pre-packaged communion portions that are available on the tables at the doors.

The pre-packaged portions contain grape juice.

The wafers are not gluten free.

Gluten free wafers are available for those with dietary restrictions.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE DURING COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

Blessed Jesus, **in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

A GOSPEL READING FROM JOHN 19:23-30

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." 25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. 28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Holy God, **when facing death, Jesus thought of his mother, Mary, and commended her to the disciple whom he loved. Inspire us by this act of care within community, so we can live with one another in holy love. Amen.**

MEDITATION

HYMN

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

ELW 338

NUNC DIMITTIS - *Song of Simeon*

P: At last, all powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go
in peace,
according to your promise.

C: Guard us, O Lord, while we sleep, and keep us in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

C: Guard us, O Lord, while we sleep, and keep us in peace.

Give praise to the Father Almighty, to his Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord,
to the Spirit, who dwells in our hearts, both now and forever. Amen.

C: Guard us, O Lord, while we sleep, and keep us in peace.

Exit in Silence

Tonight we celebrate the First Communion of

Gabriel Bauch, son of Andrew and Jennifer Bauch

Kennedy McCann, daughter of Corey and Missy McCann

Bella Otto, daughter of Jedd and Jessie Otto



We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving Others,
Welcoming and Loving All.

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